

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY BETWEEN THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE UMATILLA INDIAN RESERVATION AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty between the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the United States Government. I am proud to represent the people of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Congress and am always warmly welcomed when I visit the reservation.

Mr. Speaker, since time immemorial, the people of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation have lived on the Columbia River Plateau. Specifically, their homeland is the area now known as north-eastern Oregon and southeastern Washington. The Umatilla Tribes currently have over 2,446 tribal members who continue to care for and live on the land of their ancestors.

On May 28, 2005, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla will gather to commemorate the 150th Anniversary of the treaty they signed with the United States Government. For the members of the Umatilla tribes this is an opportunity to remember and honor their ancestors who signed the treaties and to educate their youth and the public about these important documents.

I think it is fitting as we near the anniversary of this treaty to share with my colleagues a little bit of the history of the treaty signing. For nearly three weeks in late May and June of 1855, thousands of Native Americans from the Cayuse, Umatilla and Walla Tribes, along with the Nez Perce, Yakama and some bands of the Colville, all convened in the Walla Walla Valley, Washington Territory for a historic treaty council. During this three-week period the tribes met and negotiated with Washington Territory Governor Isaac Stevens and Superintendent for Indian Affairs of Oregon Territory Joel Palmer.

The agreement that came from this three-week negotiation has been the guiding document between the Umatilla, Cayuse, and Walla Walla people with the United States Government for the past 150 years and thus the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla, Yakama, and Nez Perce Reservations were created.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to note that the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation have a long history of strong leadership and continue to preserve their traditional cultures and languages. Their leaders were among the most influential negotiators at the Treaty Council 150 years ago and today the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla are regarded as outstanding leaders within Indian Country.

Their leadership and innovative economic endeavors help lead the way in eastern Oregon and in Indian Country. The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation determine their own futures through successfully operating a wide range of their own services

and almost all of their Federal programs, including health services, housing, education, police and fire protection, tribal courts, natural resources management and protection, fisheries, administration, and economic development and employ over 1000 people in the region.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent what is today the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and it is an honor to work closely with them to help improve their futures and the futures of all eastern Oregonians.

BIENNIAL BUDGETING AND APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2005

HON. DAVID DREIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, the annual rush to complete action on budget, authorization and appropriations bills not only results in a poor budget process, but also reduces the amount of time available for careful oversight and management of existing Federal programs. During the 31-year history of the Budget Act, Congress has met the deadline for completion of a budget resolution only five times. Since 1953, Congress has been forced to enact continuing resolutions to fund government activities past the end of the fiscal year in every year but four (FY1953, FY1989, FY1995 and FY1997). And according to the Congressional Budget Office, Congress provided \$170 billion in fiscal year 2005 appropriations for 167 statutes whose authorizations had expired.

That is why I introduced the Biennial Budgeting and Appropriations Act of 2005, which streamlines the budget process and improves the fiscal management and oversight of government programs by instituting a biennial budget system. Under the bill, the President would submit a two-year budget and Congress would consider a two-year budget resolution and 11 two-year appropriations bills during the first session. The second session would be devoted to consideration of authorization bills, programmatic oversight of government agencies and emergency spending bills. Mr. Speaker, this is a proposal we've entertained in the past, and I believe it deserves another look.

By eliminating repetitive and time-consuming appropriations work, the Congress as a whole and even the appropriations subcommittees would be better able to focus on oversight. This would also contribute to more appropriate funding decisions in biennial appropriation bills and any necessary supplemental/recision legislation. As with oversight, biennial budgeting would allow more time for needed authorization legislation. In addition, the overwhelming appropriations workload every year has upset the intended balance in the role of authorizations and appropriations. Biennial budgeting would help restore the importance of the authorization process.

Preparing for annual appropriations is as much or more of a drain on time and resources for Federal agencies as it is for Congress. It takes nearly three years for the Administration and Congress to produce and implement one annual budget. As a result, a

great deal of time and manpower are diverted from managing existing programs, leading to delays in reform implementation and creating a slower and more bureaucratic government. Biennial budgeting would provide Federal agencies more time for program oversight, increasing agency efficiency and providing them with more stable and predictable budgets. In addition, Congress would be able to exercise better oversight over them.

As recently as World War II, all but four States had biennial budgeting. The growing dependence on annually appropriated big-government programs, however, helped move many to change to annual cycles. Although this trend has reversed in recent years (today, 21 States have biennial budgets), biennial budgeting at the Federal level would help States return to this commonsense process. Even if States retain annual cycles, they will benefit from more stable and predictable Federal funding.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support the Biennial Budgeting and Appropriations Act of 2005. It will provide a starting point for discussions on how to improve the budget process and foster improved governance for the American people.

CONGRATULATING THE ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' LACROSSE TEAM

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 26, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the St. Mary's High School girls' lacrosse team of Annapolis, Maryland in honor of its 2005 Interscholastic Athletic Association of Maryland (IAAM) A1 Conference Championship.

This remarkable team, the Saints, culminated a season of phenomenal play by defeating Anne Arundel County rival Severn School in a tightly contested game by a score of 7 to 6 to bring home the championship for the first time in 9 years. This season these young ladies played some of the best high school lacrosse teams in the Nation.

In just her third year as Head Coach of the Saints, Sue Chittim is to be congratulated along with her assistant coaches, Megan Lewis and Steve Clarke, for their ability to motivate and inspire their players with a positive attitude to play unselfishly as a team. The success of the Saints' lacrosse program is a true credit to Coach Chittim's vision and ability as a coach. As the IAAM tournament began, Coach Chittim's mantra for her team was, "Don't tell me how rough the waters are . . . just bring in the ship."

The Saints 4 seniors, Kelly Gaudreau, Bri Gauthier, Mindy Jones, and Bridget Noon, played their final high school lacrosse game as true champions and undoubtedly all season long were role models for their underclass teammates.

The remaining players, Sarah Beckstead, Alex Bertrand, Christian Carr, Caroline Cochran, Laura Ford, Devon Kelly, Morgan Kelly, Alex Kuntz, Jessica Liberto, Stephanie Murtha, Erin O'Donovan, Allison Perkins, Jackie Proch, Kelly Reid, Mary Ruttum, Kim Schindel, Samantha Schrum, and Erika Welck, contributed immensely to the success of the Saints